

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 NSC-05 SAB-02 SY-05 SS-15

SYE-00 USSS-00 L-03 PRS-01 PM-05 SP-02 DODE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 6471

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, AR

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE DELEGATION TO PANAMA CANAL

TREATIES SIGNING CEREMONY

REF: STATE 206475

1. THE ARGENTINE DELEGATION TENTATIVELY WILL CONSIST
OF THE FOLLOWING WHICH ARE NOT NECESSARILY IN PROTOCOL
ORDER:

(A) PRESIDENT AND MRS. JORGE RAFAEL VIDELA.

(B) REAR ADMIRAL OSCAR ANTONIO MONTES (NAVY), FOREIGN
MINISTER.

(C) BRIG. GENERAL JOSE R. VILLAREAL (ARMY), SECRETARY
GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY.

(D) COLONEL MIGUEL MALLEA GIL, (ARMY) UNDER SECRETARY OF THE
PRESIDENCY FOR INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS.

(E) CAPT. CARLOS P. CARPINTERO (NAVY), PRESS SECRETARY
OF THE PRESIDENCY.

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(F) AMBASSADOR ENRIQUE QUINTANA, CHIEF OF PROTOCOL,
FOREIGN MINISTRY.

(G) MINISTER-COUNSELOR MIGUEL ANGEL ESPECHE GIL, DIRECTOR
GENERAL, NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, FOREIGN MINISTRY.

(H) BRIG. GENERAL OSCAR N. CAEIRO (AIR FORCE), CHIEF OF PRESIDENT'S MILITARY HOUSEHOLD.

(I) LT. COLONEL MARIO JAIME SANCHEZ (ARMY), PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT.

(J) PRESIDENT VIDELA'S AIDE-DE-CAMP (NAME TO BE SUPPLIED).

2. BRIEF BIO SKETCHES FOLLOW ON MEMBERS OF PARTY:

(A) PRESIDENT AND MRS. VIDELA. AMPLE BIO INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN WASHINGTON ON PRESIDENT VIDELA, WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE TRIPARTITE RULING JUNTA AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMY. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH POORLY. MRS. VIDELA, THE FORMER ALICIA RAQUEL HARTRIDGE, IS A STYLISH-LOOKING WOMAN OF ENGLISH ANCESTRY. HOWEVER, SHE HAS A LIMITED ENGLISH CAPABILITY AND IS NOT COMFORTABLE IN THE LANGUAGE. THE COUPLE HAS SEVEN CHILDREN, INCLUDING ONE SON SERVING AS A JUNIOR OFFICER IN THE ARMY AND ANOTHER IN THE MILITARY ACADEMY.

(B) REAR ADMIRAL OSCAR ANTONIO MONTES. ADMIRAL MONTES ASSUMED THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON MAY 23, 1977, FOLLOWING A TERRORIST ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST HIS PREDECESSOR, ADMIRAL GUZZETTI. ABOUT 50 YEARS OLD, MONTES' CAREER ASSIGNMENTS HAVE INCLUDED COMMAND OF THE TRAINING FRIGATE "LIBERTAD", SERVICE WITH THE NAVAL

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ANTARCTIC GROUP, CHIEF OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE, COMMAND OF THE PRINCIPAL ARGENTINE NAVAL BASE, CHIEF OF THE NAVAL COMMAND AND ASSISTANT NAVAL ATTACHE IN PERU AND BRAZIL. MONTES IS RESPECTED FOR HIS INTELLIGENCE, COMPETENCE, MOTIVATION AND STRONG MORAL CHARACTER. AS FOREIGN MINISTER HE HAS MANAGED FAITHFULLY TO FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS OF PRESIDENT VIDELA WHILE AT THE SAME TIME REMAINING LOYAL AND PRESUMABLY CLOSE TO HIS NAVAL CHIEF, ADMIRAL MASSERA. IN HIS NEW JOB HE HAS PROVEN HIMSELF TO BE AN ARTICULATE AND INTELLIGENT SPOKESMAN FOR ARGENTINE FOREIGN POLICY. STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST, HE HAS BEEN KNOWN TO TAKE ANTI-U.S. STANDS AT TIMES BUT ALWAYS IN A REASONED WAY. IN A RECENT MEETING WITH U.S. REPRESENTATIVES HE STRONGLY DEFENDED MAINTAINING THE ANNUAL UNITAS EXERCISE. HE HAS BEEN QUOTED AS SAYING THAT U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IS VERY CLEAR, BUT THE ARGENTINE POSITION IS ALSO FIRM. REPUTEDLY A CONGENIAL MAN IN SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, HE HAS BEEN COURTEOUS AND SOMEWHAT FORMAL ON OFFICIAL OCCASIONS. HE LENDS A JUDICIOUS AND FATHERLY QUALITY IN CONTRAST TO THE YOUNGER, MORE OPENLY HARDLINE NAVAL AIDES ON HIS STAFF. HE EVIDENTLY UNDERSTANDS SOME ENGLISH.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 6471

(C) BRIG. GENERAL JOSE R. VILLAREAL. ABOUT 50 YEARS OLD, GENERAL VILLAREAL IS REGARDED AS A CLOSE FRIEND AND PROTEGE OF VIDELA. AN INFANTRY OFFICER WITH AIRBORNE EXPERIENCE, HE IS KNOWN AS ONE OF THE MODERATE AND "POPULIST" MEMBERS OF THE ARMY WHICH IS MORE INCLINED TOWARDS AN EVENTUAL OPENING TO ARGENTINA'S EXISTING POLITICAL PARTIES AND NEGOTIATION WITH THE PERONIST LABOR SECTOR. EMBASSY OFFICERS ACQUAINTED WITH HIM FIND HIM CONGENIAL, RESPONSIVE AND INTELLIGENT. HIS COMMAND OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IS LIMITED.

(D) COL. MALLEA GIL. 48 YEARS OLD MALLEA GIL SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH. HE ENTERED WEST POINT IN 1947 WITH THE CLASS OF 1951 BUT RETURNED TO ARGENTINA IN 1949 TO GRADUATE FROM ARGENTINA'S MILITARY ACADEMY. HE IS ARTICULATE, PRO-U.S. AND ADVISES THE PRESIDENT ON A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS NOT NECESSARILY LIMITED TO INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, OFTEN SERVES AS PRESIDENT'S INTERPRETER.

(E) CAPT. CARLOS P. CARPINTERO, HAVING GRADUATED AS A MIDSHIPMAN IN 1950, CARPINTERO IS A NAVAL AVIATOR (IN HIS MID OR LATE FORTIES) WHO HAS SERVED IN THE OFFICE OF THE NAVAL ATTACHE IN THE U.S. SUAVE AND POLISHED IN MANNER WE HAVE FOUND HIM IN HIS JOB TO
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BE VERY HELPFUL TO U.S. INFORMATION OBJECTIVES, ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT RESERVED. HE HAS NOT TOTALLY MANAGED TO CAPTIVATE THE PRESS AND FROM TIME TO TIME HAS COME UNDER CRITICISM FROM HIS COLLEAGUES IN GOVERNMENT. HIS ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAPABILITY IS GOOD.

(F) AMBASSADOR ENRIQUE QUINTANA. 60 YEARS OF AGE QUINTANA HAS BEEN A CAREER DIPLOMAT OF THE OLD SCHOOL SINCE 1939. HE HAS SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA, LEBANON, THE IVORY COAST AND THE U.S.R. THIS IS HIS SECOND STINT AS CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, HAVING SERVED IN THE SAME POSITION ABOUT 15 YEARS AGO. HE HAS BEEN RATHER STUFFY IN HIS PROTOCOL JOB, BUT USUALLY COMES THROUGH IN THE END WITH WHATEVER WE HAVE REQUESTED. HE IS FLUENT IN FRENCH, ENGLISH AND GERMAN.

(G) MIGUEL ANGEL ESPECHE GIL. IN HIS MID-40'S, ESPECHE IS A GRADUATE LAWYER. HE PREVIOUSLY HAS SERVED IN THE LEGAL, PROTOCOL AND FOREIGN POLICY PLANNING DEPARTMENTS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND HIS FOREIGN ASSIGNMENTS INCLUDE BRAZIL, URUGUAY AND THE U.N. HE HAS BEEN AN ADLAI STEVENSON FELLOW RECENTLY AND HE ALSO SERVED AS A MEMBER OF THE INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE, 1975-1977. A SHY AND RESERVED MAN, HE HAS BEEN IN HIS CURRENT POSITION LESS THAN A YEAR WHERE HE HAS NOT YET DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF AS AN ENERGETIC INNOVATOR OR LEADER. HOWEVER, HE IS A VERY DECENT FELLOW OF GOOD UPBRINGING WHOM WE SUSPECT SHARES A TRADITIONALIST'S DISTASTE FOR ARGENTINA'S BAD HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. IN ONE TENSE MOMENT OF HARD TALK BETWEEN MRS. DERIAN AND THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, ESPECHE SUPRISED US BY INTERJECTING HIMSELF AND BREAKING THE ICE WITH AN IMPASSIONED EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT ARGENTINA WOULD SHORTLY BE ABLE TO MOVE DOWN THE ROAD TOWARDS REESTABLISHMENT OF THE RULE OF LAW. HE UNDERSTANDS ENGLISH WELL, BUT
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HIS SPEAKING FACILITY IS SOMEWHAT HALTING.

(H) BRIG. GENERAL OSCAR N. CAEIRO. PROMOTED BO TRIG. ON DECEMBER 31, 1976, CAEIRO IN THAT SAME MONTH WAS ASSIGNED TO HIS PRESENT POSITION. MORE DATA WILL BE SUPPLIED IN SEPTEL.

(I) LT. COLONEL SANCHEZ. A 46 YEARS OLD INFANTRY OFFICER, COL SANCHEZ WAS NUMBER ONE IN HIS GRADUATING CLASS IN THE MILITARY ACADEMY. HE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A STRONG CATHOLIC AND NATIONALIST, BUT FRIENDLY TO THE U.S. HE HAS ALSO BEEN DESCRIBED AS WELL VERSED IN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC MATTERS WITH A STRONG DISTASTE FOR CIVILIAN PARTICIPATION IN PAST MILITARY GOVERNMENTS. HE HAS SOME

ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAPABILITY.

3. CORRECT PROTOCOL ORDER WILL FOLLOW IN SEPTTEL.

4. AMBASSADOR QUINTANA AND COL. MALLEA GIL HAVE ALREADY
DEPARTED FOR U.S. TO MAKE ADVANCE PREPARATIONS.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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